



URGENT ACTION

TL 5032

PUBLIC

AI Index: ASA 21/43/99

EXTRA 62/99

Fear for safety / possible "disappearance"

20 May 1999

EAST TIMOR

Ramameta
Halerik
Januarii Anderade
Stevao Pereira (21), student
Agustinho da Costa (24), student

Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of the five men named above, who were arrested between 19 and 20 May 1999.

Ramameta, Haleric and Januarii Anderade, who were arrested on 19 May by police in Aileu, are now reportedly being held at regional police headquarters (POLDA) in Dili. All are known to be supporters of independence.

Stevao Pereira and Agustinho da Costa were arrested the next day at around 1:30pm by *Rajawali*, a special forces command (KOPASSUS) unit, together with troops from battalion 744. Their whereabouts are currently unknown.

They were arrested at the Politeknik institute in Hera, Dili, where they are students, when they tried to go on campus to collect some belongings. Access to the campus is currently being denied to students and teachers who are normally housed there. It is currently occupied by members of Aitarak (Thorn) paramilitary unit. Four others arrested at the same time have since been released.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Since the beginning of April 1999, paramilitary groups, supported by the *Tentara Nasional Indonesia* (TNI), Indonesian Armed Forces, have been responsible for violent attacks and the arbitrary detention, torture and unlawful killing of people throughout East Timor in an attempt to seek out supporters of independence for the region. On 6 April, at least 18 people, possibly many more, were killed in Liquisa when paramilitary units - backed up by the TNI - attacked a church where around 2000 local residents had sought refuge from earlier paramilitary assaults.

Since 17 April at least 18 people, possibly many more, are believed to have been killed in Dili by paramilitary units. Despite the signing of a peace agreement on 21 April between the TNI, the National Council of Timorese Resistance (CNRT), paramilitaries and the political groups that support integration, the situation in Dili remains tense.

According to reports, at least four independence supporters were killed between 9 and 10 May. On 10 May there were reports of attacks on foreign journalists in Dili when supporters of integration threw stones and shot at them near the municipal market. Supporters of independence and human rights monitors, many of whom remain in hiding, are still at risk of arrest or violent attacks.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/faxes/express/airmail letters in Bahasa Indonesia, English or your own language:

- urging the authorities to establish the whereabouts of Ramameta, Halarik, Januarii Anderade, Stevao Pereira and Agostinho da Costa;
- asking the authorities to clarify any charges brought against the five men and that they be given immediate, regular and continuing access to independent legal advice and their families;
- urging the authorities to prevent the arrest of supporters of independence by either paramilitary or military units;
- calling on the authorities to disarm and disband all paramilitary units.

APPEALS TO (please note that fax tones can be difficult to obtain at certain times):

Minister of Defence and Security

Gen. Wiranto

Menteri Pertahanan dan Keamanan

Jl. Medan Merdeka

Jakarta 10110

Indonesia

Telegrams: General Wiranto, Jakarta, Indonesia

Faxes: + 62 21 381 4535 / 384 5178

Salutation: Dear Minister

Commander Resort Military Command (KOREM) 164/Wiradharma (covers East Timor)

Colonel Tono Suratman

Markas KOREM 164/Wiradharma

Dili

East Timor, Indonesia

Telegrams: Colonel Suratman, KOREM, Dili, East Timor, Indonesia

Faxes/Tel: + 62 390 321 624 / 62 390 321 512

Salutation: Dear Colonel Suratman

COPIES TO:

President Jusuf Habibie

Presiden RI

Istana Negara

Jl. Veteran

Jakarta Pusat

Indonesia

Faxes: + 62 21 526 8726 / 21 380 5511 / 21 345 7782 (via ministry of Foreign Affairs)

and to diplomatic representatives of Indonesia accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 17 June 1999.